

Choose the training that suits you

As well as deciding which age group and subject you would like to teach, you can choose from various types of teacher training courses depending on your qualifications, experience and where you want to train. Courses are available across the country, so you have plenty of options when it comes to the location of your training.

Before you decide which route into teaching you want to take, you should find out about the common factors that apply across all teacher training courses.

What does a teacher training course involve?

To become a qualified teacher, you need to successfully complete teacher training. By doing so, you'll achieve 'qualified teacher status' – or QTS.

All teacher training courses include:

- a minimum of 24 weeks in at least two schools to give you practical classroom experience
- academic study to give you the knowledge and understanding to teach successfully
- an assessment of your teaching skills (through being observed teaching classes)

What will I learn?

By the end of a teacher training course you should:

- know and understand the national curriculum in your chosen subject(s) and/or age group
- be able to plan and prepare for lessons and set pupils' learning objectives
- have strong classroom management skills, such as knowing how to promote good behaviour and minimise disruption
- know how to teach pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
- be able to assess pupils effectively

School-led training

If you want your training to be based at a school where you can be fully immersed in the life of a teacher from day one, a school-led training course is for you. You're selected by the school and are based there during your training.

Across the country there are school-led training options for both graduates and career changers who want hands-on training in a school.

School-centred initial teacher training (SCITT)

Schools are taking on more control of teacher training. Some have been given government approval to run their own training, called SCITTs. They provide practical, hands-on teacher training delivered by experienced, practising teachers, based in their own school or at a school in their network.

All SCITT courses generally last a year and result in QTS. Many also award a PGCE from a university – check individual courses for full details.

School Direct

Many SCITTs and schools also run School Direct courses. This is a popular choice for those who hope to secure a teaching post in the network of schools where they are training.

If you're successful in your training, there is a government expectation that you will get a job offer in one of the schools when you qualify.

Just like SCITT courses, with School Direct you get practical, hands-on training and education based in good schools across the country. School Direct courses are designed by groups of schools – with a university or a SCITT – based on the skills they are looking for in a newly qualified teacher. The schools recruit you as a trainee onto their School Direct course with a job in mind just for you.

School Direct courses generally last a year and all result in QTS. Many also award you a PGCE and/or Master's-level credits, but you should check individual courses for more information.

Career changers – get paid while you train with School Direct (salaried)

If you're a graduate and have three or more years' work experience,* School Direct (salaried) is available exclusively for you. You'll be based at a school and earn a salary during your training – and you can expect a job offer when you qualify.

Often the school covers the cost of your training to achieve QTS. Check with the school you are applying to whether this also includes a PGCE.

Teach First

Teach First is an education charity that runs a two-year course for outstanding graduates where you can earn while you train and work in a challenging school in a low-income community.

Visit teachfirst.org.uk to learn more about its vision and its leadership development programme.

Armed forces

If you are ex-Service personnel, find out how the invaluable skills and experience gained in the armed forces can enable you to become an outstanding teacher through the Troops to Teachers programme:

education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/troops-to-teachers.

Academics

Academics who have completed or are finishing a doctorate can become qualified to teach through the Researchers in Schools course.

Visit researchersinschools.org for more information.

University-led training

Universities and colleges offer teacher training courses for both graduates and undergraduates. Universities work with groups of schools to offer at least two school experience placements as part of your training.

If you want your teacher training to be based at a university, this is the option for you.

If you already have a degree, one option is to complete a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) at a university or college. A PGCE involves a course of academic study that results in a professional academic qualification. It is normally a year-long, full-time course (or up to two years part-time) that, when combined with a programme leading to QTS, develops your understanding of the theory of education and teaching methods. A PGCE is available through university-led and many school-led training courses.

*Schools can decide to accept applications from candidates with less work experience in hard-to-fill subjects, especially in maths, physics, chemistry, design and technology, computing and modern and ancient languages.

Training options

Use the table to see which postgraduate course would be most suitable for you:

	University-led training	School-led training		
	University	School-centred initial teacher training (SCITT)	School Direct training programme	School Direct (salaried)
Selected by the school in partnership with an accredited training provider			●	●
Selected by an accredited training provider	●	●		
Tax-free bursary whilst you train*	●	●	●	
Employed during training and salary paid				●
Fees payable by candidate	●	●	●	**
Expectation of employment at end of training in host school partnership			●	●
Minimum of 24 weeks spent in school***	●	●	●	●
Open to new graduates	●	●	●	
Open to graduates with 3 or more years' work experience	●	●	●	●
You may have the opportunity to achieve a postgraduate qualification****		●	●	●
You will have the opportunity to achieve a postgraduate qualification	●			

*Bursaries are available for trainees on eligible postgraduate courses in England who are not employed as a teacher. Bursary amounts will vary depending on teaching subject and degree class. Additional payments may be available. See education.gov.uk/teachpgfunding for further details. For bursary information for courses in Wales visit teachertrainingcymru.org **On the School Direct (salaried) scheme you will not need to pay fees to cover the cost of training to achieve qualified teacher status (QTS). However, you should enquire with the school whether you would be expected to pay for any academic qualifications, such as PGCE, beyond this. ***Secondary teaching only (minimum in primary – 18 weeks). ****Many school-led providers also offer the chance for you to achieve a postgraduate qualification. Please contact your chosen school for further information on academic awards. Disclaimer: All information correct as of September 2014.